

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~1~~ 34, wherein:

said included angle, defined between said upper and lower flank surfaces, is preferably within the range of 40-45°.

3. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

said included angle, defined between said upper and lower flank surfaces, is preferably 40°.

4. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 2,

wherein:

said included angle, defined between said upper and lower flank surfaces, is preferably 45°.

5. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~4~~ 34, wherein:

each one of said plurality of saw-blade type teeth has a substantially trapezoidal cross-sectional configuration.

6. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 5, wherein:

valleys are defined between successive ones of said plurality of substantially contiguous substantially trapezoidal-shaped saw-blade type teeth.

7. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 6,

wherein:

each one of said valleys comprises an included angle of 100°.

8. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~4~~ 34, wherein:

said plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth are only formed upon peripheral edge portions of said crest portions of leading ones of said individual thread portions of said substantially continuous single helical thread.

9. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 8, wherein:

said leading ones of said individual thread portions of said substantially continuous single helical thread comprises approximately the leading one-third to one-half of the number of individual thread portions of said substantially continuous single helical thread formed upon said

shank portion of said threaded fastener.

10. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~1~~ 34, wherein:

said plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth have a predetermined pitch defined between adjacent ones of said plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth; and

each one of plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth has a predetermined radial depth dimension.

11. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 10, wherein:

said threaded fastener comprises either one of a number six, a number eight, a number ten, a number twelve, and a number fourteen sized threaded fastener;

said predetermined pitch, respectively defined between adjacent ones of said plurality of substantially con-

tiguous saw-blade type teeth, is within a range of 0.60-0.80 mm; and

each one of plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth has a predetermined depth dimension which is within a range of 0.21-0.29 mm.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~42~~ 35, wherein:

said included angle, defined between said upper and lower flank surfaces, is preferably within the range of 40-45°.

14. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 13, wherein:

said included angle, defined between said upper and

lower flank surfaces, is preferably 40° .

15. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 13, wherein:

said included angle, defined between said upper and lower flank surfaces, is preferably 45° .

16. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~12~~ 35, wherein:

each one of said plurality of saw-blade type teeth has a substantially trapezoidal cross-sectional configuration.

17. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 16, wherein:

valleys are defined between successive ones of said plurality of substantially contiguous substantially

trapezoidal-shaped saw-blade type teeth.

18. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 17, wherein:

each one of said valleys comprises an included angle of 100°.

19. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~12~~ 35, wherein:

said plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth are only formed upon peripheral edge portions of said crest portions of leading ones of said individual thread portions of said single helical thread.

20. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 19, wherein:

said leading ones of said individual thread por-

tions of said single helical thread comprises approximately the leading one-third to one-half of the number of individual thread portions of said single helical thread formed upon said shank portion of said threaded fastener.

21. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~12~~ 35, wherein:

said plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth have a predetermined pitch defined between adjacent ones of said plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth; and

each one of plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth has a predetermined radial depth dimension.

22. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 21, wherein:

said threaded fastener comprises either one of a number six, a number eight, a number ten, a number twelve,

and a number fourteen sized threaded fastener;

said predetermined pitch, respectively defined between adjacent ones of said plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth, is within a range of 0.60-0.80 mm; and

each one of plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth has a predetermined depth dimension which is within a range of 0.21-0.29 mm.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~23~~ 36, wherein:

said included angle, defined between said upper and lower flank surfaces, is preferably within the range of 40-45°.

25. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 24, wherein:

said included angle, defined between said upper and lower flank surfaces, is preferably 40°.

26. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 24, wherein:

said included angle, defined between said upper and lower flank surfaces, is preferably 45°.

27. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~23~~ 36, wherein:

each one of said plurality of saw-blade type teeth has a substantially trapezoidal cross-sectional configuration.

28. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim

27, wherein:

valleys are defined between successive ones of said plurality of substantially contiguous substantially trapezoidal-shaped saw-blade type teeth.

29. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 28, wherein:

each one of said valleys comprises an included angle of 100°.

30. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~23~~ 36, wherein:

said plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth are only formed upon peripheral edge portions of said crest portions of leading ones of said individual thread portions of said substantially continuous single helical thread.

31. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 30, wherein:

said leading ones of said individual thread portions of said substantially continuous single helical thread comprises approximately the leading one-third to one-half of the number of individual thread portions of said substantially continuous single helical thread formed upon said shank portion of said threaded fastener.

32. (Currently Amended) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim ~~23~~ 36, wherein:

said plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth have a predetermined pitch defined between adjacent ones of said plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth; and

each one of plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth has a predetermined radial depth dimension.

33. (Original) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 32, wherein:

said threaded fastener comprises either one of a number six, a number eight, a number ten, a number twelve, and a number fourteen sized threaded fastener;

said predetermined pitch, respectively defined between adjacent ones of said plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth, is within a range of 0.60-0.80 mm; and

each one of plurality of substantially contiguous saw-blade type teeth has a predetermined depth dimension which is within a range of 0.21-0.29 mm.

34. (New) A threaded fastener for insertion within diverse types of substrates comprising wood, metal, thermoplastics, composite materials, concrete, and hard aggregate, said threaded fastener comprising:

a shank portion extending circumferentially around a longitudinal axis;

a head portion formed upon a first end of said shank portion;

a tapered tip portion formed upon a second opposite end of said shank portion;

a substantially continuous single helical thread formed upon said shank portion, wherein individual thread portions of said substantially continuous single helical thread comprise pointed crest portions defining a circumferentially extending linear locus which is formed by upper and lower flank surfaces of said substantially continuous single helical thread intersecting each other at an included angle, defined between said upper and lower flank surfaces, which is within the range of 40-60°; and

a plurality of saw-blade type teeth formed upon peripheral edge portions of said pointed crest portions of said individual thread portions of said substantially continuous single helical thread so as to extend substantially continuously and contiguously, in adjacent contact with one another, around the entire circumferential extent of said threaded screw fastener,

whereby a single one of said threaded fasteners can be used for insertion within the diverse types of substrates comprising wood, metal, thermoplastics, composite materials, concrete and hard aggregate.

35. (New) A threaded fastener for insertion within diverse types of substrates comprising wood, metal, thermoplastics, composite materials, concrete, and hard aggregate, said threaded fastener comprising:

a shank portion extending circumferentially around a longitudinal axis;

a head portion formed upon a first end of said shank portion;

a tapered tip portion formed upon a second opposite end of said shank portion;

a single helical thread formed upon said shank portion so as to comprise individual thread portions which are substantially continuous, except upon said tapered tip portion wherein an axially oriented slot, intercepting individual thread portions defined upon said tapered tip portion, renders said individual thread portions defined upon said tapered tip portion discontinuous, said individual thread portions of said single helical thread comprising pointed crest portions defining a circumferentially extending linear locus which is formed by upper and lower flank surfaces of said single helical thread intersecting each other at an included angle, defined between said upper and lower flank surfaces, which is within the range of 40-60°; and

a plurality of saw-blade type teeth formed upon peripheral edge portions of said pointed crest portions of said individual thread portions of said single helical thread so as to extend substantially continuously and contiguously, in adjacent contact with one another, around the entire circumferential extent of said threaded screw fastener,

whereby a single one of said threaded fasteners can be used for insertion within the diverse types of substrates comprising wood, metal, thermoplastics, composite materials, concrete, and hard aggregate.

36. (New) A threaded fastener for insertion within diverse types of substrates comprising wood, metal, thermoplastics, composite materials, concrete, and hard aggregate, said threaded fastener comprising:

a shank portion extending circumferentially around a longitudinal axis;

a head portion formed upon a first end of said shank portion;

a tapered tip portion formed upon a second opposite end of said shank portion;

a substantially continuous single helical thread formed upon said shank portion, wherein individual thread portions of said substantially continuous single helical thread comprise pointed crest portions defining a circumferentially extending linear locus which is formed by upper and lower flank surfaces of said substantially continuous single helical thread intersecting each other at an included angle, defined between said upper and lower flank surfaces, being within the range of 40-60°; and

a plurality of saw-blade type teeth formed upon peripheral edge portions of said pointed crest portions of said individual thread portions of said substantially continuous single helical thread, which are disposed only upon said shank portion, so as to extend substantially continuously and contiguously, in adjacent contact with one another, around the entire circumferential extent of said threaded screw fastener,

whereby a single one of said threaded fasteners can be used for insertion within the diverse types of substrates comprising wood, metal, thermoplastics, composite materials, concrete, and hard aggregate.

37. (New) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 34,
wherein:

each one of said plurality of saw-blade type teeth
is disposed at a rake angle which is other than positive with
respect to said longitudinal axis of said shank portion.

38. (New) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 35,
wherein:

each one of said plurality of saw-blade type teeth
is disposed at a rake angle which is other than positive with
respect to said longitudinal axis of said shank portion.

39. (New) The threaded fastener as set forth in Claim 36,
wherein:

each one of said plurality of saw-blade type teeth
is disposed at a rake angle which is other than positive with
respect to said longitudinal axis of said shank portion.